Inter-state meeting for river water disputes

1542. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of inter-State meetings held of the basin States to sort out the use, distribution or control of water of inter-State rivers in the country, during the last three years, year-wise and what are the names of the participating States;

(b) what was the outcome of these inter-State meetings; and

(c) what steps Government have taken for the amicable settlement of inter-State river water disputes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The Central Government is required to hold inter-State meetings to sort out disputes between the States on use, distribution or control of water of inter-State rivers in the country under the provisions of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956. An inter-State meeting of the basin States of Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka was convened by the Union Minister (Water Resources) on December 20, 2002 for finding a negotiated settlement of the dispute.

(b) It was decided in the meeting that Government of Goa and Central Water Commission officials will make joint efforts to reconcile the discrepancies in the date and yield figures.

(c) The Union Government makes all efforts to resolve the water disputes among the States amicably through negotiations and mutual discussion, failing which the disputes are referred to a Tribunal for adjudication under the provisions of Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956. The said Act has been amended in the year 2002, whereby the adjudication of the water dispute by a Tribunal has been made time bound.